

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 97-193-C - ORDER NO. 2000-0457  
MAY 30, 2000

IN RE: Request of Rock Hill Telephone Company for ) ORDER ESTABLISHING  
Revisions to its General Subscriber Service ) PROCEEDING AND  
Tariff to Comply with FCC Orders. ) HEARING ON REMAND

✓ DU

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition of the South Carolina Public Communications Association (SCPCA), which requests that this Commission proceed with an investigation and hearing in this matter, pursuant to the Order of the Honorable Jackson V. Gregory of the Circuit Court of June 25, 1999, which remanded the matter back to the Commission for further proceedings.

In March and April of 1997, South Carolina Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) who are members of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition (SCTC) filed proposed tariff revisions to their General Subscriber Service Tariffs (including Rock Hill Telephone Company) in response to certain Federal "Payphone Orders." With these revisions, the LECs contended that their tariffs for payphone services complied with Congress' and the FCC's requirements. On April 25, 1997, the SCPCA filed a Petition to Intervene, Motion to Conduct Investigation, and for an Accounting Order in each of the SCTC tariff filings, requesting that the Commission require these LECs to comply with the requirements set out in the Federal Payphone Orders.

The Commission issued Orders from May 16 to 22, 1997, including an Order for Rock Hill Telephone Company, in which we ruled on various aspects of the SCTC payphone service tariffs. SCPCA filed Petitions for Rehearing and Reconsideration in all cases, which we denied, reaffirming our earlier Orders. Order Nos. 97-448 and 97-608 in Docket No. 97-193-C related to the tariffs of Rock Hill Telephone Company.

Subsequently, SCPCA filed a Petition for Judicial Review in the Circuit Court. By Order on June 25, 1999, Judge Gregory found as follows: “In that there was no cost study submitted in this case, the court finds that there is not sufficient information in the record to support the Commission’s determination that rates are cost-based.” Based upon this finding, Judge Gregory remanded the matter back to this Commission “for the purpose of taking evidence and making a determination of whether the rates for the payphone line and unbundled features of Rock Hill Telephone Company are, in fact, in compliance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and applicable FCC orders, as appropriate.”

We believe that we must grant SCPCA’s Petition and proceed with an investigation and hearing in conformance with Judge Gregory’s June 25, 1999 Order on Remand. Accordingly, Rock Hill shall furnish the relevant cost study, and the matter shall be set for hearing at such time as may be deemed appropriate by the Commission Staff.

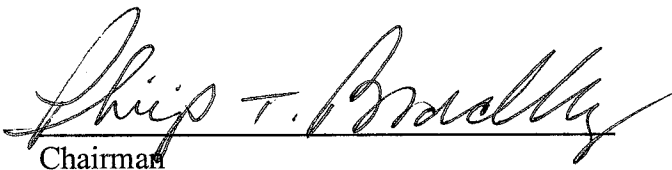
MAY 30, 2000

PAGE 3

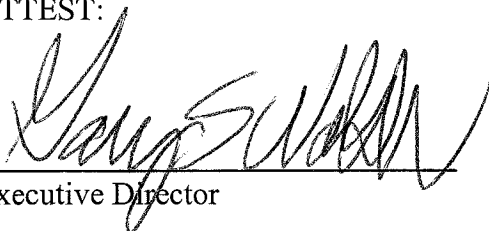
---

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)